

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church



*First Sunday
of Advent*

December 3, 2023

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

***Please rise, in body or in spirit.**

Gathering Music

Brian, John, and Paul

Welcome

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Donna Cook and Rick Soles

Congregation Sings

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is call Emmanuel.*

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Susan Brown

***Call to Worship**

Josh Smith

Leader: We await the day of the Coming One of God.

People: God is faithful.

Leader We ask for strength and endurance in waiting.

People: God is powerful.

Leader: We pray for wakefulness to the signs of God's realm among us.

All: God is moving among us.

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 82

***Prayer for the Day (unison)**

Josh Smith

O God, you never sleep but always watch with infinite care over your children. Keep us from growing weary of waiting for your love, lest we miss the glory of your appearing. O Christ, bright morning star, awaken us to live today as children of the light. Even so, come quickly to our lives and our world. Amen.

Call to Confession

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Oak Hill Community

Alert and active God, we confess how easily we fall into a somnolent state, more asleep than awake, living more unconsciously than consciously. We follow familiar patterns mindlessly, taking for granted our many blessings, failing to recognize the many manifestations of your presence and your love, ceasing to expect to encounter you in new ways with life-changing results. When we look for nothing more than what is, we sleep in boredom. When hope turns to resignation, we exist rather than really live. Forgive us both for our languor and our lack of trust, we pray. And in that forgiveness, may we find new life and fresh energy to live toward your realm. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Hymn

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

No. 97

Peace

Oak Hill Community

Time for Growing Disciples

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Hanging of the Greens

Special Music

Good King Wenceslas

Marty Crimmins, Bette Welch, and Valery Welch, instrumental trio

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Josh Smith

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Sermon

Advent Hope

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Meditation

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Susan Brown

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more information and updates: www.oakhillpcusa.org.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXE: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTT GART, 83)

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

**May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

TEXT: John Bowring, 1825, alt.
 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1876

ABERYSTWYTH
 7.7.7.7.D

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law 'in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)	Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)	Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)	Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)	
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)	Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with refrain